

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 191805Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2651

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AND AEGG-OCO

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF U. S. SOLDIER IN EAST BERLIN

1. EARLY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 17, U. S. SOLDIER IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, TAKING PICTURES IN VICINITY OF WALL IN WEST BERLIN, ENTERED FACTORY YARD OFF BERNAUERSTRASSE, WALKED THROUGH RAILROAD TUNNEL, AND INADVERTENTLY FOUND HIMSELF IN EAST BERLIN. (SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT BOUNDARY AT TUNNEL, GRID COORDINATES UU 914238, IS NOT CLEARLY DELINEATED.) SOLDIER WAS APPREHENDED BY EAST GERMAN GUARDS, ESCORTED TO GUARD SHACK, AND THEN TAKEN BY JEEP TO NEARBY BUILDING. ASKED BY EAST GERMANS FOR HIS PASSPORT, SOLDIER SAID THAT HE HAD NONE BUT PRODUCED HIS MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARD (DD FORM 2A). AROUND 1800 HOURS SOLDIER WAS ESCORTED TO ANOTHER BUILDING, WHERE HIS CAMERA AND FILM WERE CONFISCATED. WHEN ASKED FOR FURTHER IDENTIFICATION, HE HANDED OVER STATESIDE DRIVER'S LICENSE. HE WAS THEN INTERROGATED, APPARENTLY

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NOT HARSHLY OR SEARCHINGLY, FOR SEVERAL HOURS. QUESTIONING

ENDED AT 2400 HOURS, AT WHICH POINT SOLDIER WAS ALLOWED TO SLEEP. AT 0930 NOVEMBER 18, HE WAS ESCORTED BY SEDAN TO FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CHECKPOINT, WHERE HIS ID CARD, LICENSE, CAMERA, AND DEVELOPED FILM WERE RETURNED AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO CROSS OVER INTO WEST BERLIN.

2. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER DELIVERED STATEMENT IN PROTEST TO SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 19, RECOUNTING FACTS AND NOTING THAT THIS WAS ENTIRELY INAPPROPRIATE AND UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT ON PART OF EAST BERLIN GUARDS. WE POINTED OUT THAT AS MEMBER OF U.S. FORCES, SOLDIER SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMMEDIATELY RELEASED AT POINT AT WHICH HE WAS APPREHENDED OR ELSE TURNED OVER TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR RETURN TO U. S. AUTHORITIES.

3. AFTER LISTENING TO STATEMENT, ROMANOVSKIY INQUIRED WHETHER OR NOT SOLDIER HAD BEEN IN UNIFORM. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER ANSWERED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. IN RESPONSE TO ROMANOVSKIY'S FURTHER QUERIES, MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER FURTHER EXPLAINED LOCATION AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF APPREHENSION. ROMANOVSKIY TROTTED OUT CUSTOMARY PITCH THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAD NO COMPETENCE IN MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, AND THAT IF U. S. AUTHORITIES HAD PROTEST TO MAKE THEY SHOULD TURN TO GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER COUNTERED THIS ASSERTION WITH STANDARD ARGUMENTATION, AND ROMANOVSKIY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT PROTEST, BUT WOULD TAKE IT "FOR INFORMATION ONLY."

4. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinjw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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